

Mr. P. G. Narayanan Unnithan (*Excise Commissioner*) :

(a) 2,60,000, maunds on an average.

(b) 1109 2,07,754 Maunds.

1110 2,19,836 „

1111 2,47,737 „

1112 2,97,186 „

(c) 1117 58,492 Maunds.

1118 1,31,410 „

1119 1,07,282 „

Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar : In view of the answer to part (c) that the quantity of salt stored is within less than 50 per cent. of the quantity that is necessary, may I know whether it is not necessary to store the required quantity of salt in the depots ?

Mr. P. G. Narayanan Unnithan : Sir, the salt available at the disposal of the Department is not sufficient to supply the needs of the four taluks. So, only a part of it is stored. I may inform the honourable member that last year out of 1,61,000 maunds stored there, only 1,28,260 maunds were sold actually. The demand was then less than the stock in the Depot.

Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar : May I know from the honourable member what the reasons were for not selling the balance of the stock ?

Mr. P. G. Narayanan Unnithan : It may be that the salt merchants bringing salt direct from the factory were selling salt at reasonable price. I may inform the honourable member that the Department is concerned only with the manufacture and storage and not sale in the various taluks. We have in the factory about three times the normal demands of the country and the only difficulty is that of transport.

Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar : May I know, why the consumption of salt per head is larger in 1118 ?

Mr. P. G. Narayanan Unnithan : These figures are not very correct for calculating actual consumption, because we have calculated these figures only on the issue basis. Perhaps there was a large stock at the end of the year with the dealers. These figures only show the quantity of salt issued.

Bridge across the Kallada river.

19. * **Mr. M. K. Velu Pillai** (*Quilon cum Kunnattur*) : Will the Government be pleased to state whether any representations were made to Government for the construction of a bridge across the Kallada river at Kariminpuzha ?

Mr. I. C. Chacko (*Chief Engineer, P. W. D.*) : Yes.

Mr. M. K. Velu Pillai : May I know from the honourable member whether the Government will take up the question of construction of the Bridge ?

Mr. I. C. Chacko : After the other more important bridges are taken up, the question of construction of this bridge will be considered.

Mr. M. K. Velu Pillai : Does it imply that the construction of this bridge is not important ?

Mr. I. C. Chacko : Sir, a list of the important bridges have been prepared and this bridge comes in that list fifteenth or sixteenth.

Bridge at Palai.

20. * **Mr. K. C. Chandy (Todupuzha cum Minachil) :** Will the Government be pleased to state :

(a) whether the construction of a bridge at Palai across the Minachil river was ever undertaken by them and if so, in what year ; and

(b) whether the bridge was completed and if not, why ?

Mr. I. C. Chacko : (a) Yes, in 1101 M. E.

(b) No, as a low level bridge of the type was found unsuitable there.

Mr. K. C. Chandy : May I know from the honourable member whether the construction was undertaken by the Government without investigating whether a low level bridge or high level bridge was suitable to the place ?

Mr. I. C. Chacko : At the time of construction, it was considered that a low level bridge will do.

Mr. K. C. Chandy : May I know whether subsequent investigations have been made with a view to construct a high level bridge ?

Mr. I. C. Chacko : Yes, Sir. A fresh estimate has already been prepared for a high level bridge.

Mr. K. C. Chandy : May I know whether Government intend to construct a bridge there ?

President : Order, order. Questions regarding future intentions cannot be asked.

Mr. N. Narayana Kurup (Karunagapalli, Kartikapalli and Ambalapuzha cum Shertallai) : May I know why, when a low level type of bridge was found unsuitable to the place in 1101, a high level bridge was not thought of subsequently ?

Mr. I. C. Chacko : I said that an estimate has been prepared. It is on account of the high price of materials that the construction has not been taken up.